

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 129418

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OED/MEPD/JLSMITH/MJJ

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R 032220Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 129418

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: SUBWAY

REF: HONG KONG'S 5088, PREVIOUS

1. REGRET PRESS OF BUSINESS DELAYED FOLLOWING REPORT ON THOMPSON VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MEPD WAS UNABLE REACH THOMPSON UNTIL 9:30 AM, MAY 12. WE HAD BRIEF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AND LEARNED THAT THOMPSON HAD ONLY ONE FREE HOUR IN AFTERNOON BETWEEN HIS MEETING WITH EXIM AND TIME HE AND HIS PARTY HAD TO LEAVE CITY FOR AIRPORT. HE WAS NEVERTHELESS INTERESTED IN BRIEF VISIT TO WASHINGTON METRO WHICH WAS ARRANGED.

2. LACK OF TIME ALLOWED FOR VISIT TO ONLY ONE UNDERGROUND STATION AND VERY GENERAL BRIEFING BY WMATA OFFICIAL.

DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH MEPD PROJECT OFFICER, THOMPSON PARTY EXPRESSED DESIRE VISIT US AGAIN LATER THIS SUMMER FOR MORE DETAILED INSPECTION NEWER METRO SYSTEMS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH TRANSIT EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 129418

BANKERS. WE OFFERED APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND ARE WILLING TO DO SO IF TRIP MATERIALIZES AND IF CONGEN WILL PROVIDE MORE ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE. THOMPSON AND

ASSOCIATES LEFT IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH GETTING CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN NEXT 12 WEEKS AND DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL SOURCES OF FINANCING. THEY APPEARED LESS INTERESTED IN EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER DOWNSTREAM CONSIDERATIONS. ASSUME THEY WILL BE ABLE DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO THESE ASPECTS OF PROJECT AFTER PICK AND SHOVEL CONTRACTS ARE AWARDED.

3. AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS TRAFFIC, EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS REMAIN VERY INTERESTED IN SUBWAY PROJECT AND PULLMAN HAS WRITTEN COMATT MARTIN OFFERING MAKE VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS TO WELCOME LATER VISIT BY HKMRTPA OFFICIALS. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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